

REMARKS

The applicants appreciate the courtesy and helpfulness extended by Examiner Zitomer to the undersigned at the interview on September 20th.

The claims have been amended as discussed with the Examiner. Thus, claim 26 has been amended to define the polymers as "binding" and the specific sequence as a "target" specific sequence. It is thought that this helps to emphasize the nature of the applicants' invention.

Dependent claims 27, 38, 39, 40 and 41 have been amended to conform with the amendment of claim 26.

Claim 51 has been canceled as redundant in view of claim 38.

Additionally, claim 55 has been simplified while retaining the substance thereof.

It is believed that the application, as amended herein and in the applicants' earlier amendment of September 17, 2001, is in condition for allowance for the reasons indicated in the earlier response. Accordingly, favorable action with allowance is requested.

In reviewing the applicants' amendment of September 17th, it has been noted that "doctrine" should read "disclosure" at page 6, line 7 of said response. It is also noted that the reference to page 97, line 35 in the 4th line from the bottom of page 6 relates to the applicants' specification as originally filed. This corresponds with page 96, line 2 of the substitute specification.

Sep-25-01 04:12pm From-PILLSBURY WINTHROP
FODOR ET AL [REDACTED]
Serial No. 09/585,659

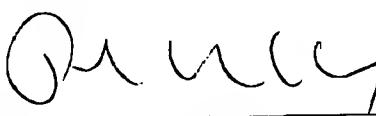
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The changes in the claims are highlighted in the attached Appendix.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 51 is being canceled.

The claims have been amended as follows:

26. (Twice Amended) A collection of beads comprising a plurality of beads which have binding polymers of different target specific sequence attached thereto; said beads being coded with an encoding system whereby the target specific sequence of the polymer attached to the beads can be identified.

27. (Twice Amended) The collection of claim 26, wherein the binding polymer is an oligonucleotide having a given length and is selected from the group consisting of all possible oligonucleotide sequences having the same number of nucleotides.

38. (Twice Amended) The collection of claim 26, wherein the binding polymer is a protein selected from the group consisting of proteins having enzyme binding sites and proteins having antibody binding sites.

39. (Twice Amended) The collection of claim 26, wherein the beads are comprised of a glass surface and the binding polymers are attached through amines on the glass surface.

FODOR ET AL
Serial No. 09/585,659

40. (Twice Amended) The collection of claim 26, wherein the beads are comprised of a surface and the binding polymers are attached through hydroxyl groups on the surface.

41. (Twice Amended) The collection of claim 26, wherein the binding polymers are oligodeoxyribonucleotides, a plurality of the beads are comprised of a surface and a coating of an organic hydrophilic layer terminating in hydroxyl groups, and phosphates of the oligodeoxyribonucleotides are immediately linked to the hydroxyl groups.

55. (Twice Amended) The collection of claim 27, wherein [a] the plurality of [the] different beads [are] is reusable[; thereby allowing specific interactions between the polymer attached to a single bead and its target to be disrupted and the single bead treated, whereby a renewed plurality of beads equivalent to an unused plurality of beads is made by such treatment].